

CLAIMS:

1. A method of scheduling broadcasts in a self-organizing network (100), the method comprising the steps of:
 - transmitting a broadcast comprising presence information from a first device to its neighboring devices in the self-organizing network every period T_B ,
- 5 characterized in that the transmission of a broadcast comprising presence information from the first device is skipped if all its neighbors have received the broadcast from the first device during a period T_{CB} .
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the transmission of the
- 10 broadcast comprising presence information from the first device is skipped during a second part of the period T_{CB} if all its neighbors have received the broadcast from the first device during a first part of period T_{CB} .
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a broadcast comprising
- 15 presence information transmitted from a device further comprises information on whether the device has received a broadcast from each device in a list of neighboring devices.
4. A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the broadcast transmitted from the device comprises a *skip broadcast bit*, which is set if a broadcast comprising
- 20 presence information has been received from each device in the list of neighboring devices in the current T_{CB} .
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the broadcast transmitted from the device comprises a *skip broadcast bit*, which is set if both of the following
- 25 conditions are met:
 - $(t_{CB(i), \text{next}} - t) > T_B$;
 - a broadcast comprising presence information has been received from each device in the list of neighboring devices in the current T_{CB} ,where $t_{CB(i), \text{next}}$ is the next instant in time, at which the device is arranged to check from

which devices it has received broadcasts comprising presence information and t is the current time.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the device will skip a
5 broadcast if all broadcasts comprising presence information from devices in the list of
neighboring devices in the current period T_{CB} have the *skip broadcast bit* set.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the device will skip a
broadcast if both of the following conditions are met:
10 - all broadcasts comprising presence information from devices in the list of
neighboring devices in the current period T_{CB} have the *skip broadcast bit* set;
- $(t_{CB(j), next} - t) > T_B$,
where $t_{CB(j), next}$ is the next instant in time, at which the device is arranged to check from
which devices it has received broadcasts comprising presence information and t is the current
15 time.

8. A method as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that a device will skip a
broadcast if $(t_{CB(j), next} - t) > T_B$, and if one of the following conditions is met:
- all broadcasts comprising presence information from devices in the list N_j of
20 neighboring devices in the current period T_{CB} have the *skip broadcast bit* set
OR
- all broadcasts comprising presence information received from devices in M_k ,
where $M_k \subset N_j$, during the current check beacon period have the *skip broadcast bit* set AND
the devices in $N_j \setminus M_k$ are not in the "LAST_KNOWN_BEACON" field of any of the
25 broadcasts transmitted from the devices in the list M_k ,
where the "LAST_KNOWN_BEACON" field indicates from which device a broadcast
comprising presence information has been received at the earliest instant during the current
check beacon period T_{CB} ; $t_{CB(i), next}$ is the next instant in time, at which the device is arranged
to check from which devices it has received broadcasts comprising presence information; and
30 t is the current time.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that $T_B < T_{CB}$.

14

10. A method as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that $T_{CB} = N \cdot T_B$, where $N \in$

N^+ .

11. A device performing the method as claimed in claim 1.

5

12. A self-organizing network comprising devices performing the method as claimed in claim 1.

13. A computer program product comprising a program of computer instructions for making a programmable computer perform the method as claimed in claim 1.